**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of measuring the differences between a first video signal and a second video signal, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~analysing (31) the~~analyzing information content of each video signal to identify ~~the~~ perceptually relevant boundaries of ~~the~~ video images depicted therein;

comparing ~~the~~ boundaries so defined in the first signal with those in the second signal~~;~~, the comparison including determination of the extent to which the properties of ~~the~~ boundaries defined in the first image are preserved in the second image~~;~~; and

generating an output indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in Claim 1, in which the information content is ~~analysed~~analyzed for a plurality of boundary-identifying characteristics ~~(32, 32d)~~, and the properties of ~~the~~ boundaries on which the comparison is based include ~~the~~ characteristics by which such boundaries are defined in each of the signals.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the characteristics include the presence of edges.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the characteristics include the presence of disparities between frames of the same signal.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein the characteristics include changes in at least one of the properties of: luminance, ~~colour~~color or texture.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claims 1, in which the comparison includes a comparison of ~~the~~ perceptibility of corresponding boundaries identified in the first and second signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, in which the comparison of the images includes ~~the steps of~~:

identification of ~~the~~ principal elements in each image, and

compensation for differences in ~~the~~ relative positions of ~~the~~ said principal elements.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, in which the analysis includes identification of perceptually significant image features, and the output indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals is weighted according to ~~the~~ cognitive relevance of such image features.

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8, in which ~~the~~ perceptually significant image features are those characteristic of the human face.

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 9, in which ~~a~~ weighting is applied to the output according to ~~the~~ significance of the feature in providing visual cues to speech.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8, in which ~~the~~ perceptually significant image features are those by which individual text characters are distinguished.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for measuring the differences between a first video signal and a second video signal, said apparatus comprising:

analysis means for ~~the~~processing information content of each video signal to identify ~~the~~ perceptually relevant boundaries of ~~the~~ video images depicted therein;

comparison means for comparing ~~the~~ boundaries so defined in the first signal with those in the second signal~~;~~, the comparison including determination of the extent to which ~~the~~ properties of ~~the~~ boundaries defined in the first image are preserved in the second image~~,~~: and

~~and~~ means for generating an output indicative of ~~the~~ perceptual difference between the first and second signals.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in Claim 12, wherein:

the analysis means is arranged to ~~analyse~~analyze ~~the~~ information content in the signals for a plurality of boundary-identifying characteristics, and

the comparison means is arranged to compare ~~the~~ characteristics by which such boundaries are defined in each of the signals.

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify the presence of edges.

15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify the presence of disparities between frames of the same signal.

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 13, wherein the analysis means includes means to identify differences in at least one of the properties of: luminance, ~~colour~~color or texture.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, in which the comparison means includes means for determining ~~the~~ perceptibility of the boundaries identified in the first and second signals.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, in which the comparison means includes image matching means for ~~identification~~identifying ~~of the~~ principal elements in each image and translation means for effecting translation of one image to compensate for differences in ~~the~~ relative positions of such elements in the first and second images.

19. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, in which the comparison means includes weighting means for identifying perceptually significant image features ~~in the components~~, and weighting the output according to ~~the~~ cognitive relevance of such image features.

20. (Currently Amended) Apparatus ~~according to~~as in claim 12, further comprising:

visual stage means for processing original input signals to emulate the response of the human visual system~~,~~and to generate modified input signals for input to the analysis means.